

John Engages with Schools

John met with some of the S3 pupils from St Mungo's academy on their tour of the Scottish Parliament.

After the tour John took part in a Question and Answer session with the third year students.

John commented:

"It is always great to see young people who are interested in politics, even more so when they come from the East End.

"Alongside this I also visited Swinton Primary and was very amused to hear one of the children comment that "The real John Mason was in our classroom!"



Contact John Mason MSP directly...

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Homelessness Increases

John Mason lodged a motion at the Scottish Parliament to highlight the plight of the homeless over the winter period.

Figures from Glasgow City Mission show a 60% rise in rough sleepers looking for a bed with Glasgow City Mission compared to last year.

Commenting on this John said:

"I find it shocking that we are still dealing with homelessness in this day and age, much less that homelessness has been increasing over the past years. It is clear that the welfare cuts pursued by the UK Government are not only not working but are actively pushing people into abject poverty."

Celtic Connections

In his spare time John attended four events at the annual Celtic Connections festival including at St Lukes in Calton and St Andrews in the square. The Celtic Connections focuses on traditional Scottish music but also includes international folk, roots and world music artists.

Finance Committee in Pitlochry

The Scottish Parliament Finance Committee which John is a member of travelled to Pitlochry on the 18th January.

The Committee quizzed the Deputy First Minister and Finance Secretary, John Swinney on the Scottish Government's spending plans for the coming year 2016-2017.

Local organisations, businesses and charities also took part in some workshops regarding the budget and its impact on the people of Pitlochry.

The Committee has made a decision to hold its various evidence sessions with Mr Swinney in different communities across the length and breadth of Scotland to ensure that the widest variety of voices can be heard.

 The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba	<h1>Parliamentary Patter</h1>	Community Council Report John Mason MSP
		February 2016

John in Call for Tougher Regulation on Bellgrove

John Mason MSP once again raised the issue of the Bellgrove Homeless Hostel through a question to the Scottish Government.

The Bellgrove Hotel is a hostel for men who are variously unemployed, suffering from substance abuse and have other issues. It has previously been described as a place which "epitomises deprivation and squalor – in every sense, it is a modern day poorhouse."

Commenting on the Bellgrove John Mason said:

"The situation in the Bellgrove has been ongoing now for a worryingly long time. The hostel itself is only subject to "House in Multiple Occupation" meaning that it faces the same regulations as a student flat. I have often argued that the hostel should be subject to strict housing and carehome regulations to help ensure that those who are forced to stay at the Bellgrove can get the help and support they need."



Removing Barriers Report

The Equal Opportunities Committee which John is a member of published their report into the barriers that can be faced by those seeking employment due to their race or ethnicity.

Motions lodged by John at Parliament :

- ◆ **Motion S4M-15258: Fat Cat Tuesday** — Highlighting Fat Cat Tuesday, the day when top executives in the UK have been paid more than the average yearly salary of a worker.
- ◆ **Motion S4M-15286: New Diabetes Report** — Noting the publication of a new report which finds that lowering sugar in soft drinks by 40% could lead to a drop in total diabetes cases of 300,000.
- ◆ **Motion S4M-15335: Post Study Work Visa** — Deploing the perceived decision by the UK Government to rule out the return of the Post-study work visa.
- ◆ **Motion S4M-15488: Removing Barriers: Race, Ethnicity, and Employment** — Welcoming the report published by the equal opportunities focusing on the barriers in employment that hinder those from different racial and ethnic backgrounds.
- ◆ **Motion S4M-15500: E-cigarettes may be harmful to young** — Noting the findings of the study published in the *Tobacco Control* journal which shows that e-cigarettes may lead to smoking for young.

The full text of all motions , questions and answers can be viewed at
<http://www.johnmason.org/category/motions/>